Point of Order regarding Question No. 221.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—On a point of order. Question No. 221, 'the reasons why highly salaried officers who can command margins of savings over and above their costs of living on a liberal standard take bribes'. My submission is it is going too far and all liberties allowed for questioning have been exceeded. (*Hear, hear.*) That question ought to be expunged. It is defamatory and a slur upon the officers of Government and so many other things which I need not say. Therefore, the President will exercise his right to expunge the same.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It is a double question, about receiving bribes and the reasons for permitting them to take bribes; and the answer of the Government is very funny—that Government have no information.

President.—There is nothing in the question which makes the language defamatory. There is a provision in the rules of the Council which provides that an Hon'ble Member making a statement shall be responsible for the statement he makes. If the President excludes every question which contains an unpleasant statement the rights of the Members to ask questions will be greatly limited. To my mind the rule which provides that every Hon'ble Member shall be responsible for the statement he makes, is meant to cover such allegations as are contained in that question. That is why I admitted the question.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If the President will kindly allow me I will read rule (8). 'The question shall relate to a single matter and it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions and defamatory statements'. This is defaming the whole service, whatever service it is.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—The question seems to be only a hypothetical one. It does not refer to an officer of this State.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—There has been a previous instance of expunging by the President in this House.

President.—The question of expunging it will be considered.

The Cochin Nambudiri Bill.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce the Cochin Nambudiri Bill.

Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Caste and Religious Disabilities Removal Bill.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I rise to move for leave to introduce the Cochin Caste and Religious Disabilities Removal Bill.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—I second it.

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